

## Shea: Rumors unconfirmed

By Lori Safranek

Bill Shea, director of UNO's Aviation Institute, said last Monday rumors saying he is being considered for the position of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) administrator remain unconfirmed.

Shea said he has heard nothing further since December when an article in *General Aviation News & Flyer*, a national aviation publication, reported rumors that President Bush was considering Shea for the job.

"(I've heard) nothing new, except there's been a number of groups who've expressed support for me," Shea said. "I thank them all for that."

"I'm not assertively seeking a position," he said. "My number one goal is to continue working with a great faculty and a great student body here in the Aviation Institute."

The article in *General Aviation News & Flyer* said, "We just received a couple of names for the list at the White House for FAA and DOT (Department of Transportation) top dogs ... A couple of the names we heard include Bill Shea ... formerly California aeronautics division leader, Port of Portland (Oregon) aviation department chief, FAA associate administrator for airports (and other posts) and also with the aviation department at the University of North Dakota. He is currently developing the aviation program at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (sic)."

Shea said he actually had been considering semi-retirement once UNO's Aviation Institute was firmly established. "All of a sudden, this thing comes up," he said.

Shea said although he was honored just to have had his name mentioned in connection with the FAA job, nothing was definite, as far as he knew.

"Whether or not it will happen, only time will tell," he said.

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## Regents elect Payne chairman

By Elizabeth Merrill

In his quest for University of Nebraska Board of Regents chairman, Regent John Payne proved the third time was a charm on Saturday.

Payne was unanimously elected by his fellow regents to serve the one-year term. He had previously been in contention for the job twice, losing both times to Don Blank, a dentist from McCook.

Last year, the board was deadlocked in the vote between Payne and Blank, and Payne subsequently withdrew from the race.

"I think the generosity of this board allows me the luxury of passing," he said.

As chairman, Payne will set the agendas for the board and preside over the meetings.

In his first meeting as chairman, Payne addressed problems the campuses are facing in light of the 3 percent cut of state funds from the NU budget last year.

UNO Chancellor Del Weber reported to the board that 900 sections of classes were closed at registration two weeks ago. He cited the budget cuts as a reason for the large amount of closed classes.

"This institution is growing, and I pointed out to the regents that the need is going to continue because we are an inner-populated institution," Weber said. "There's a middle-class meltdown in this region and a lot of parents can't afford to send students away to school."

Weber told the regents that although enrollment is on the increase, the funding to expand services is decreasing.

"The demand for our product is surpassing our ability to supply it," Weber said later in a telephone interview. "The budget cuts are reflected in that. When you have to eliminate 18 (faculty) positions, that shows up. You don't have the amount of sections to be offered."

In addition to Payne's election as chairman of the board, NU President Martin Massengale gave his State of the University address.

Massengale announced his plans to initiate awards to recognize excellence in university teaching.

"Traditionally, we have recognized excellence in research and creative activity in a variety of ways," Massengale said. "Teaching needs similar recognition."

The award will be instituted later this year, and an award incentive for academic departments to recognize excellence in teaching as a group effort will be promoted.



Never too old to dribble

—Ed Carlin

Redshirt Freshman guard John Haugh leads a group of avid followers in a halftime routine at the Mini Mav basketball clinic during Saturday night's UNO vs. St. Cloud game in the UNO Fieldhouse.

## Student reaction to drop/add week varies

By Christine Johnson

Change of schedule. Drop/add. Most UNO students have gone through the experience at least once, if not more often.

Brigitte Manriquez said she has gone through drop/add six times. Daphne Bennett, a junior, has gone through the process five times.

Why does a change in class schedules seem inevitable for UNO students?

Out of 20 students interviewed, 10 said they had gone through general registration, but most of the classes had been closed. Six students said they signed up for the wrong classes, and two said they had gone through early registration, but still had problems with closed classes.

With so many people dropping or adding, money soon becomes an issue. There is a fee of \$5 per day, according to Rebecca Means, assistant registrar. That means if students go through drop and add twice or more in one day, it costs \$5, but if a student goes through on two different days, the fee is \$10.

Joseph Huebner, Head of UNO's accounting department, said, "The revenue generated by the change of schedule goes toward the general university fund."

In an unscientific survey conducted by the *Gateway*, two students said the fee was fair, eight said there only should be

a one-time fee, and 10 said there should be no fee at all.

"The \$5 fee is not fair. They don't need that. Especially for the people who already paid the \$25 early registration fee," said Kimberly Roberts, a sophomore.

Stuart Kazor, a freshman, said, "There shouldn't be a fee. We pay too much as it is."

Lynn Blankenship, a freshman, and Elaine Tucker, a junior, said they thought the fee was fair.

"There's lots of work involved," Blankenship said.

"The \$5 fee is necessary, because it inconveniences them and they have to change everything for a lot of people," Tucker said.

Means said a one-time fee would be beneficial for students who go through the drop/add process many times, but it would not be fair to students who need to go through drop/add only once.

Bill Matulka, a junior, transferred to UNO from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL).

"It's worse than UNL," Matulka said. "The whole registration and drop/add procedures need to be restructured."

Means said there are plans to revamp the procedures, including a process which would allow registration by phone.

"Once it's implemented, it will change the whole registration process a great deal," she said.

## LB 1044 focuses on grad students teaching

By Lori Safranek

A bill introduced by State Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion would require faculty holding the positions of assistant professor and above to teach at least six credit hours worth of classes each week.

The introduction of Legislative Bill 1044, which would go into effect July 1, 1993, is an attempt to draw attention to the problem of college courses being taught by graduate students instead of professors, Withem said.

"It's just a concern within the higher education environment that we have been emphasizing other roles than teaching," Withem said. "I just think we need to reemphasize the role of instruction of undergraduates."

"We're having a lot of classes taught by graduate students," he said. "It's more a phenomenon at the UNL campus. More of the concerns we've heard have been from the UNL campus than UNO."

Withem said the purpose of LB 1044 is to draw attention to the problem.

"I'm not wedded to this solution," he said. "If it brings attention to the problem, it will have served its need."



# LETTERS/OPINIONS

## Godzilla attacking Tokyo harbor again?

Dear Editor:  
When I saw the headline "Tara Resur-faces," it reminded me of an old Godzilla movie where the giant lizard climbs out of Tokyo harbor.

I'm not really sure if this semester's movie is the one where Godzilla eats Tokyo, destroys battalions of militant toy tanks and forces the Japanese to drop the Rush Limbaugh neutron bomb, or if this is the one where Godzilla battles Mothra, Rodan and Rick Rezak.

Either way, I've already noticed one mistake on the editor's part that I hope is corrected.

The new columns "To the Left" and "To the Right" are mislabeled. Kent Walton, by his own description, is a moderate, not entirely a bad thing, but he is not a conservative. And Tara Muir...

I suggest you change the titles to "From the Middle" and "From Outer Space."

Paul Gebhart  
UNO Student and  
Conserva-Tyrant at Large

## Farquhar should fix parking woes

By Julia Ybarra

With the new Student President/Regent Mike Farquhar sworn in last Wednesday, it was an obvious choice to devote this column to what UNO expect from him.

Q. Since Farquhar is our Student President/Regent for the next year, are there any specific issues or situations you would like him to address during his term?

A. "Parking, of course. Just to be a little less harsh on the fines. If you're late to class and you can't find a place to park, there's nothing you can do. I'd like him to do something about that." — Amy Rinck, freshman.

A. "First of all, since he said he was so honest and upstanding in his campaign, he should stick to his promises." — Dan Dahlem, junior.

A. "Make the financial aid more accessible to students who need it. Putting more

people in the financial aid office might help. And help with the bureaucratic red tape." — Heather Giles, senior.

A. "The parking. I guess they can't chill back on the tickets, but they seem so rigid. I got a couple for parking in a stall that wasn't marked." — Allen Berglund, sophomore.

A. "The amount of parking fines. Twenty

want it to have a better reputation than the 'University of No Opportunity.' Just because it's a commuter campus doesn't mean it's inferior to UNL." — Craig Hipsher, junior.

A. "Parking in general. I think they should have faculty park at Ak-Sar-Ben and turn the faculty parking lots into student parking lots. We pay to go here and this is their job." — Stephanie Parks, junior.

A. "The whole parking appeals thing. I put in two appeals last year and I haven't heard anything, so I don't know if I owe them or they owe me." — Laura Penney, junior.

A. "Why do you have to pay half (of the tuition) all at once? Why can't you make three or four payments a semester instead of in two lump sums?" — Carrie Larsen, junior.

A. "I think if you buy a parking permit you should be guaranteed a spot. They sell more permits than there are spaces. Even when I did buy a permit, I was still late for classes." — Tom Mullen, junior.

Call it a coincidence, but many people cited the parking situation at UNO as being a top priority.

Just to clarify a few things, Farquhar's job is to represent the UNO student body at the University of Nebraska Board of Regents meetings; this does not mean he, or any other Student President/Regent, is Santa Claus.

This column is aimed at soliciting opinions from the UNO populace.

Should anyone have a topic for future issues, please submit it to the Gateway, Annex 26.

## UNO TALK MIKE FARQUHAR

bucks for an expired meter — that's ridiculous. If there were enough parking spots, we wouldn't have to park at the meters." — Dan Bigney, sophomore.

A. "Put a couple more floors on the parking garage." — Ron Lees, senior.

A. "UNO is under-funded as compared to UNL. We get the short end of the stick when it comes to funding. What will it take to get the money? A Division I football team like UNL? We need more buildings, staff, parking and that goes right back to what I said before." — Steve Smith, freshman.

A. "Is he going to do anything about parking? They keep saying 'We'll do something with Ak-Sar-Ben,' so why don't they get their rears in gear before it's too late?" — Julie Dean, junior.

A. "I want him to promote UNO among more high schools and the community. I

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**THE GATEWAY:**

**MAKING SURE JUAN VALDEZ  
HAS A JOB.**

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Letters must be signed using the first and last name or initials and the last name. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number although this information will not be published. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.



# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## Mish-mash rules the news and editorial

It's been a less-than-controversial news week and almost everyone on the staff has the flu. It's not the kind of flu that President Bush had; nobody has vomited under a table here. The strain of the virus that has been circulating Annex 26 is more of a head cold-laryngitis type of bug.

It's been sort of a mixed blessing as, for

take classes they would not have taken under normal circumstances.

Haven't you noticed a lot of dramatic arts students migrating to the Engineering Building lately?

What else has been going on in the world of news?

And on to another issue... smoking! One of our staff is brave enough to try to quit. For that, we congratulate her. Of course, those of us who do smoke are still smoking, but you can't expect miracles.

Oh! Silicon breast implants — come on, women, were they really worth it? You probably should have stuck to the toilet paper. It's cheaper and nobody gets hurt in the end.

Then there is that incident at the Indian Hills Theater this weekend. In case you haven't heard about it yet, according to local news sources a gentleman (?) took offense to a comment another gentleman (?) said about the movie "Juice."

We all know the way to solve such petty little arguments is to pull a gun out and threaten the people who don't agree with you.

Well, that's what happened. Talk about action at the theater.

Pass the popcorn!

Oh, by the way, "Juice" is a movie about life in street gangs.

Well, that's all, until Friday — when we hopefully can come up with something more concrete to write about.

P.S. What's Saddam doing lately?

### STAFF EDITORIAL DABBLING

the first time in almost six months, no one is yelling at anyone about anything.

Instead of probing one issue in depth, let's dabble in several.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents moved its monthly meeting back to Saturday mornings.

The almighty Husker football season is over, so Friday meetings aren't necessary anymore. It's only fair the other three schools in the NU system adjust their schedules accordingly. Attending a meeting on a Husker football Saturday would be like working on Christmas Day. It's just downright disrespectful.

At the regents' meeting Saturday, Chancellor Weber announced 900 courses were closed at registration this semester. Think about it. That's 900 full classrooms.

There were 2,750 courses offered for the Spring semester. That means one-third of the classes offered were closed at registration.

A lot of students probably were forced to

## Two plus two equals?

Who in this country has enough money to buy another 20-ton shipment of cocaine?

Is it really the Latin American countries' drug lords seeping into our society and corrupting it? If our society's drug users (white collar and slum areas alike) just said "no," would everything be all right?

Or, according to some people, are our very own government and corporations using drugs and the profits from them to rule the world?

These people accuse our great democracy of a twisted plot on such a massive scale that it is beyond our imagination. Just watch the new "JFK" movie to get an idea of the complexity and enormity of the corruption.

Laying out the details of how our govern-

ment agencies, the CIA and the military — with big business — are running other countries' drug trades, is even more difficult. However, it must become part of our thought processes when we see what is happening in the world, globally and locally.

### TO THE LEFT ... WITH TARA MUIR

ment agencies, the CIA and the military — with big business — are running other countries' drug trades, is even more difficult. However, it must become part of our thought processes when we see what is happening in the world, globally and locally.

Alfred McCoy, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, discusses the CIA's covert wars in several countries in his book, "The Politics of Heroin: CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade."

In the 1950s, the CIA worked in Marseilles with Corsican syndicates and, at the same time, operated in Burma and provided support which Burma used to become the world's largest opium producer.

In the 1960s, the CIA's secret war in Laos required alliances with opium growers and national political leaders who soon became major heroin manufacturers. The CIA did little to stop the heroin reaching the soldiers in Vietnam.

In the 1980s, the CIA's involvement with Afghan guerillas through Pakistan coincided with even more heroin coming through southern Asia.

In the Iran/Contra scandal, where huge amounts of cocaine are alleged to be involved, the CIA supported the Nicaraguan Contras.

Many of the CIA agents working there were the same agents in Laos in the 1960s.

Where did the CIA get such freedom?

The National Security Act in 1947 contained a clause allowing the CIA to perform "other functions and duties" that the president might direct.

Russ Baker, writing in the *Village Voice*, stretches even further when he writes that "a thesis shared by numerous former CIA agents — that the national security apparatus is little more than the private army of the Fortune 500." He links the BCCI scandal as funding

for covert operations.

The Christie Institute, a non-profit, interfaith center for law and national policy in the public interest, writes that "newspaper reports link CIA operatives and their private associates to the failure of at least 25 S & Ls."

Where is the absolute proof? Since everything can be termed a matter of national security, files are heavily censored by our own government.

Besides profits from drugs for big business, the military also benefits. The Cold War is over. The Middle East may not be such a wonderful place to try to keep our military and the Pentagon in their accustomed comfort level.

As *Newsweek* termed it in its Jan. 6 issue, "The Newest War" is in South America, where \$439 million in 1989 increased to a \$1.2 billion budget for 1992 for Bush's Drug War. The CIA is there. Don't just question authority, put two and two together.



## Racism: An Excuse?

Faster than a Nebraska State Patrol car, more powerful than the Omaha Police Division (OPD), able to leap the Capitol Building in a single bound.

Look over at City Hall. It's a legislator, it's a crusader, no... it's Senator Ernie Chambers.

Come on, Chambers. It's time to wake up from your comic-book fairy tale.

Representatives are supposed to react to the problems facing their constituents, but as a highly educated man, Chambers also should realize he can't blame the minority community's problems solely on one issue: racism.

Yes, racism — to greatly understate the issue — is a concern. But it isn't the only reason for every negative occurrence in North Omaha.

During the last three weeks, the OPD has come under fire from leaders in the black community because of the circumstances surrounding the Jan. 1 beating of two police officers.

Chambers and other black leaders are alleging that the attack may have been incited by racial remarks made by Officer Louis Briganti and Sgt. Stephen Clouse.

Clouse, who suffered a head injury from the beating that resulted in a loss of hearing, and Briganti, who received minor injuries, both deny they said anything to the crowd which could be considered racial slurs.

As it stands now, there is no proof the officers did anything wrong. There is no evidence to support disciplinary action against them, and no witnesses have come forward with testimony against them. So, why try to drag racism into the middle of this?

Because this is what Chambers does best.

Just look at his track record. When he was given a speeding ticket a few years ago, it wasn't because he was going over the designated limit. It was because he supposedly was being harassed. And, last week, he once again

tried to pass a bill which would abolish Nebraska's death penalty. Why? Because capital punishment is unfair to blacks.

If that is so, why was the last person sentenced to death in Nebraska white, the same color as the last person to die in our electric chair?

If Chambers is against the death penalty, that's fine. But until he can prove the courts are racist in their decisions to sentence someone to death, he should find another excuse to oppose it.

Don't get me wrong. I am not denying racism exists. Other events during the last two weeks prove it is alive and well right here in the Heartland.

### TO THE RIGHT ... WITH KENT WALTON

In Dubuque, Iowa, residents are up in arms about their mayor's proposal to attract 100 minority families to the area. The impact of their protests has reached all the way to the Deep South, where Ku Klux Klan leaders have decided Iowa is the ideal location to begin recruiting for a new chapter.

And in Council Bluffs last week, two California Skinheads were arrested for stabbing a woman in the throat.

So, yes, Chambers, I agree that the nightmare of racism is a reality right here in our own backyard.

Monday was a day set aside to honor the accomplishments of a man who dreamed of a day when racism would be abolished from the earth — Martin Luther King Jr.

That dream won't become a reality until people like Chambers wake up, stop using racism as an excuse and start recognizing it for what it really is: Ignorance.



# NEWS CLIPS

## Hike seeks out nests

Each bird builds a nest that is unique to its species. A 90-minute hike Sunday through Neale Woods Nature Center will give visitors an opportunity to find and identify bird

## ACA meetings weekly

UNO Adult Children Anonymous (ACA) will meet Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Meetings usually are held in the State Room, but occasionally in the Gallery Room.

The meetings are for people with background of alcoholism or other dysfunctional behavior in family mentors. The environment is non-religious and non-professional.

## IN THE AREA ...

nests by their individual characteristics.

Bring binoculars and dress warmly for the 2 p.m. hike. The hike is free to members and \$3 for adults. Admission is \$1 for senior citizens and children ages 3-11, and children under 3 are admitted free.

## Weight class starts

Lifesteps, a weight-loss program which includes individual counseling and emphasizes behavior modification, will be spon-

sored by the Fitness Center this semester.

The class begins Jan. 27 and ends April 13. Classes meet from 7 to 8 p.m. in Room 117 of the Health, Education, Physical Education and Recreation Building.

For more information, contact Kathy Blanke at 393-5800 or Kris Berg at 554-2670.

## IABC meets Thursday

Sam Jensen, a partner in the law firm of Erickson & Sederstrom, will discuss sexual harassment in the workplace at the next meeting of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

The luncheon meeting is Thursday at the Boston Sea Party, 1414 S. 72nd Street.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. For reservations, contact Ann Petersen at 398-6604.

## Hawaii film at Kiewit

Seventy percent of all the wildlife which has become extinct in the United States has done so in Hawaii, which is only 2 percent of the total U.S. land mass, according to the Audubon Society.

"Hawaii . . . Wild and Beautiful," a travelogue created by photo-journalist John Holod, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center.

The film, part of the Audubon Wildlife Film Series, highlights the devastating effect of burning lava on the Big Island, how the encroachment of man endangers the native wildlife, a four-wheel drive adventure on the little-known island of Lanai, nesting seabirds at Kilauea Bird Sanctuary, and Volcanoes National Park.

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# Med Pulse

## Injuries combatted at Sports Medicine Clinic

By Katja Seigel

Although cold weather may keep some sports enthusiasts inside, sports-related injuries still crop up in the winter. This is especially true when unseasonable temperatures exist.

"Obviously, because of the temperatures, people can do just about any sport they want. I even talked to one guy who said he was out golfing," said Tim Ellis, an athletic trainer at the Sports Medicine Center, 2255 S. 132nd St.

This involvement in recreational activities sometimes results in injuries.

In 1990, four physicians and two therapists from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) started the Sports Medicine Center. It occupies 15,000 square feet on two floors, one medical and the other therapeutic. The Prairie Life Center shares the Sports Medicine Center's facility, but they are completely separate entities.

Ellis said the Sports Medicine Center has no official connection to UNMC, although the original stockholders

were employed there.

The facility trains both orthopedic and family practice physicians who are involved there on rotations. Ellis said the Sports Medicine Program "is not recreational or fitness." Common services are treating injured knees, ankles and shoulders.

"We treat general orthopedic patients as athletes," he said. "We don't tell them to discontinue an activity, but provide braces or whatever necessary, 'specific to the individual.'"

The center also deals with students involved in the seasonal school sports such as basketball, wrestling and gymnastics.

Other educational aspects of the Sports Medicine Program are one-on-one contacts and community seminars.

Ellis said service costs are comparable to other medical clinics. Regular hours for the center are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The Sports Medicine Center welcomes students who have injuries or who just want to learn more about avoiding them.



—Eric Francis

Golfing and other sports which can cause injuries do not cease because of cold temperatures.

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## 1992 Spring Semester Important Dates

March 20 • Last day for filing applications for degrees to be conferred in May

March 22-29 • Spring Vacation. No classes

March 30 • Classes resume at 7 a.m.

April 1 • Last day for submitting credentials for admission to Graduate Studies for the First Semester Session, 1992 and for Evening Summer Session, 1991

April 3 • Last day until 4:00 p.m. to: drop a course with a grade of "W"; change a course to "Audit"; change from "CR/NC" to grade registration in a course

April 5 • Honors Day

May 1 • Last day of classes

May 2-8 • Finals

May 9 • Commencement at 10:00 a.m.

May 25 • Holiday. University closed

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## News Calendar

**Jan. 21**

- Registration for students who want to participate in on-campus recruiting interviews during February. Contact Career Planning and Placement Services in Eppley Building, Room 111.

**Jan. 22**

- Registration for alumni who want to participate in on-campus recruiting interviews during February. Contact Career Planning and Placement Services in Eppley Building, Room 111.

- Brown bag luncheon sponsored by Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, at noon in the Student Center, Dodge Room. Will feature Mary Bruning, associate dean of the College of Continuing Studies. Her topic is "Facts About Women in Higher Education: Student, Faculty, Staff, Administration? What Does This Mean to Women at UNO?"

**Jan. 23**

- First Student Senate meeting of spring semester, Student Center, 7 p.m.

## UNMC Calendar

**Jan. 22**

- 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Community Health Line. "AIDS Update," Susan Swindells, M.D., internal medicine; KIOS, 91.5 FM.
- Noon-1 p.m. Pathology/Microbiology Grand Rounds. "Population Genetics in Animals," Leslie Johnston, Ph.D., Henry Doorly Zoo; University Hospital amphitheater.

**Jan. 23**

- Noon-1 p.m. Internal Medicine Noon Conference. "Acute Renal Failure," Thomas Knight, M.D., Jerry Fischer, M.D., and Thomas Neumann, M.D., internal medicine; University Hospital, Room 5412.

### Correction:

In the Jan. 14, story "Those SAD blues" Todd Hendrickson was misidentified. He is the assistant professor of the combined psychiatry department of Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

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- Ⓢ Campus phone numbers
- Ⓢ General information

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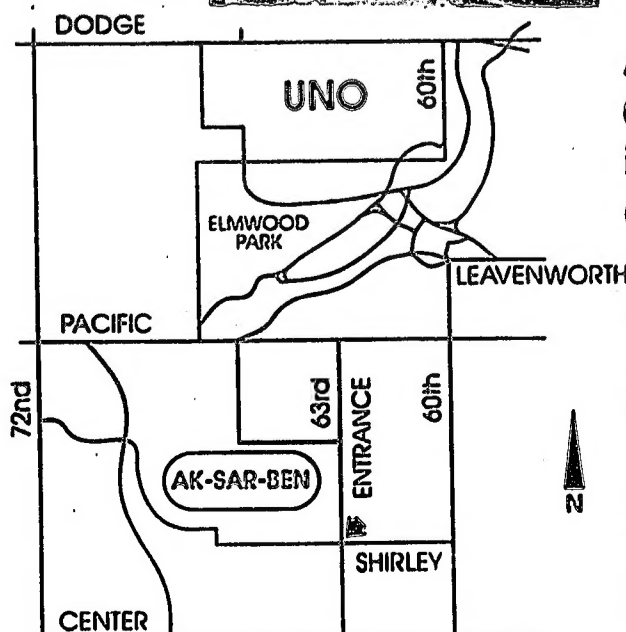
The last bus departs campus at 5:30 p.m. for Ak-Sar-Ben. Access to Ak-Sar-Ben is through the 63rd & Shirley St. gate and the buses will load/unload in the gate area. The shuttle buses are accessible to the disabled.

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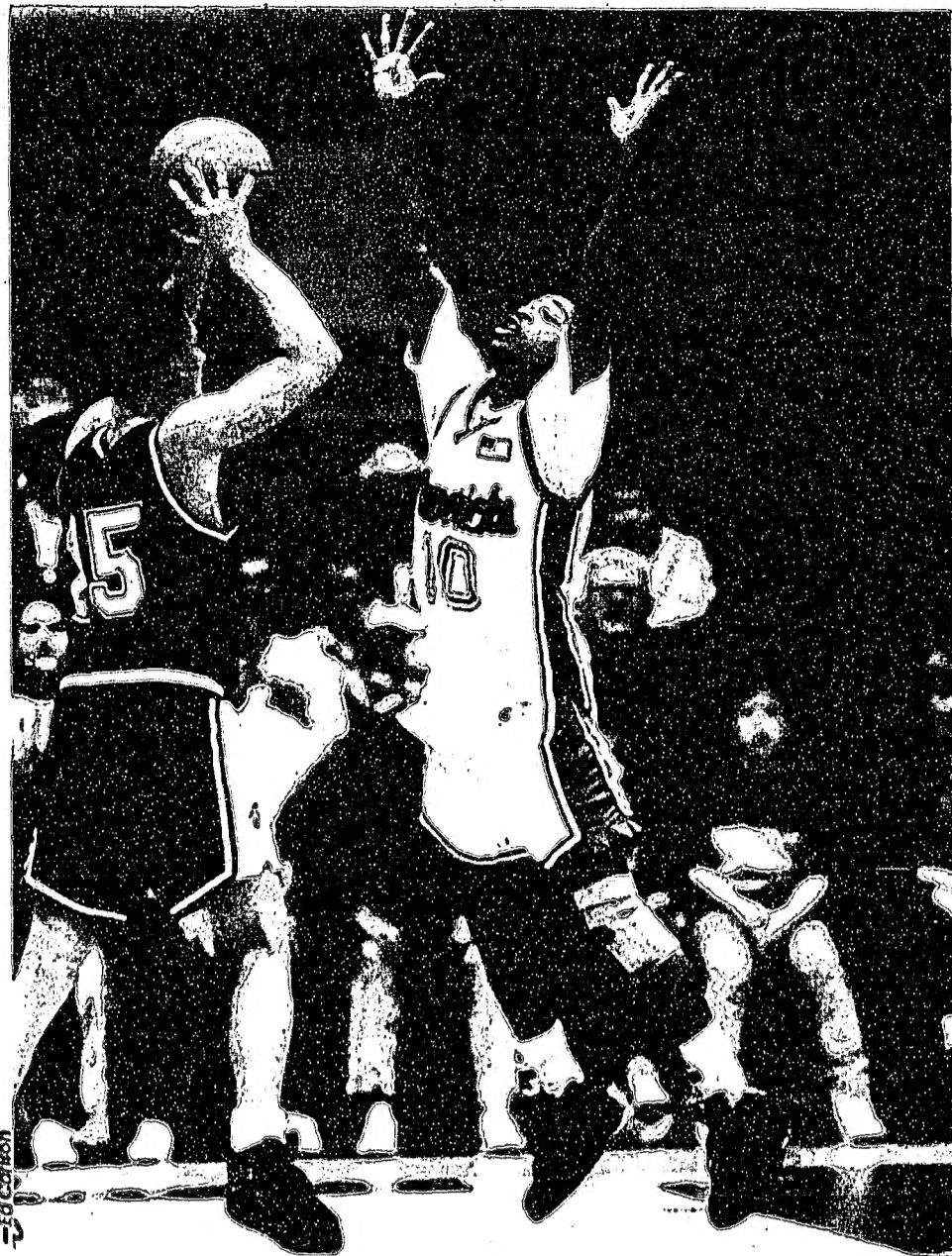
The shuttle service is also available for Faculty and Staff use.

The possession of a parking permit does not guarantee a legal parking space on campus.

All questions should be directed to Campus Security at 554-2648.







Maverick guard Ron Walker covers St. Cloud State guard Dan Ward during the Mavs' 68-60 victory Saturday.

Team snaps three-game skid

## Mavericks rally to defeat Huskies 68-60

By Daren Schrat

The drought finally ended.

After dropping three straight games, the UNO Maverick basketball team got back on the winning track Saturday with a 68-60 victory over St. Cloud State.

The Mavericks' scoring was led by guard Ron Walker's 16 points and five assists. Center Phil Cartwright came off the bench to score 16 points and grab 14 rebounds.

It took the Mavs a while to get rolling, as the Huskies appeared to be on their way in handing the Mavs their fourth straight loss.

The Mavs struggled in the first half, shooting just 35.7 percent from the floor and committing nine turnovers to trail 30-28 at halftime.

UNO regrouped for the second half as they outscored the Huskies 40-30. Cartwright scored 12 points and had 10 rebounds in the second half.

"I just told them they were doing a good job and we needed to work the offense a little bit better and be a little more patient and make them (Huskies) play defense," said UNO Coach Bob Hanson.

After three minutes in the second half, St. Cloud had built a six-point lead. The lead was attributable to Dean Kesler's 28-point performance.

The Mavs' comeback was sparked when forward Sven Bonde cut the deficit with a

three-point play. After the Huskies missed two free throws and the Mavs rebounded, Walker made it a one-point game when he made good on a jump shot.

"I think Sven Bonde played his best game of the year," Hanson said.

Bonde and Ryan Elrod each had nine points and four rebounds in 20 minutes of play.

The teams exchanged leads six times within three and one-half minutes until Cartwright, Elrod and Thad Mott put the Mavs up by five with 7:20 left.

The Mavs never trailed again in the game.

The Mavs poured it on in the last four minutes as they built a nine-point lead from two consecutive scores by Walker and another by Mike Conley.

"I thought they, St. Cloud State, would get tired," Hanson said.

Cartwright stuffed a pass from Mott to put the Huskies asleep in the last minute.

"I think we were hyped up tonight. We changed the lineup. We were looking for some chemistry, some people who just wanted to play some ball tonight," Walker said.

The next three Maverick games will be on the road, starting with Northern Colorado Jan. 21.

Hanson said his team needed to win before hitting the road.

"It puts us in a better frame of mind," he said.

## Mavericks lose poise, game against Mankato State

By Tim Rohwer

For a moment it looked like the UNO Mavericks men's basketball team was going to roll to an impressive victory over Mankato State.

The crowd of 2,400 at last Friday's North Central Conference game in the Fieldhouse was cheering loudly as the clock showed 10:17 remaining with UNO ahead, 47-41.

It was UNO's biggest lead of the game, after coming from behind at halftime.

Less than one minute later, the crowd became silent as Mankato State scored seven straight points to take the lead. They proceeded to outscore UNO 22-12 the rest of the

way to win 70-59.

"We lost our discipline (in the last 10 minutes)," said UNO Coach Bob Hanson, after lecturing the team for nearly an hour in the locker room. "They had better movement than we did. They were more patient offensively. We still shoot the ball too quick. Mankato came in here with a purpose."

UNO guard Ron Walker said, "Little things are missing. We're at a standstill right now. We're going home (to) look in the mirror. You need to see what you're doing wrong, not the team."

Walker led UNO in scoring with 12 points, and in rebounds with eight.

Guard Tom Wald led Mankato State's

scoring with 33 points. Center Nathan Marks led Mankato State in rebounds with 15.

In the first half, neither team led by more than four points. UNO's biggest lead came when Walker hit a short jump shot with just over 16 minutes remaining to make the score 8-4.

With 7:25 remaining in the half, Wald made a free throw to give the visitors their biggest margin at 24-20.

UNO eventually tied the score at 24 each, before Mankato State guard Monte Dufault hit a three-point basket to give the visitors a 27-24 lead.

UNO center Hans Geerts scored a basket to close the margin to 27-26 at halftime.

UNO scored the first three points in the second half, and eventually went ahead 47-41 after guard Terry Henderson stole a Mankato pass and went down the court for a layup.

A UNO turnover, four successful Mankato State free throws, and a three-point basket by Dufault gave the visitors the lead again at 48-47 with 9:30 remaining.

A three-point play by Mankato State guard Matt Potter gave the visitors the lead for good, 55-54, with six minutes remaining.

UNO missed several free throw opportunities to close the margin late in the game.

"If we would have made our free throws, we would have won," Hanson said.

## Lady Mavs outlast the Huskies

By Elizabeth Merrill

Although the Lady Mavs led for more than 39 minutes, it took them all of 40 to finish off 5-10 St. Cloud State.

UNO outlasted the Huskies 59-54 Saturday before an estimated 750 at the Field House.

"It wasn't pretty, but it was a good game," UNO Head Coach Cherri Mankenberg said.

The win may have seemed unattractive, but it improved the Lady Mavs' appearance in the North Central Conference (NCC) standings.

UNO boosted its record to 11-3 and 3-2 in the NCC and placed in a three-way tie for third in the conference.

A stingy Husky zone defense slowed the Lady Mavs in the second half, as their 11-point halftime lead was trimmed to 1 point with 10:44 left to play in the game.

Lady Mav guard Tricia Floyd sank two free throws to seal the victory with 59 seconds left to play.

UNO was led by junior Sandy Skradski with 16 points. The center from Omaha Gross

completed 6 of 9 shots from the field and 4 of 5 free throws. Senior Kim Priest added 13 points and 7 rebounds.

The Husky offense was sparked by Kathy Blair, who scored 19 points and grabbed 7 rebounds.

"Kathy Blair had the game of her life," Mankenberg said. "We were concerned about their size, but thought our quickness would offset it."

The Lady Mavs will draw upon that quickness next weekend as they face tough road games against Morningside and South Dakota.

"Morningside has one of the best teams that they've had in years," Mankenberg said.

"We need to play really hard because both teams are good."

According to Mankenberg, the Lady Mavs must win on the road to stay in the NCC race. UNO dropped two consecutive conference road games earlier this season to South Dakota State and Augustana.

"We need to try to get splits on the road and we'll be right in the thick of it."

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Kim Priest named player of the week

Lady Mav Kim Priest has been named the North Central Conference player of the week.

The 5-foot-11-inch senior from Papillion led the Lady Mavs to victories over conference rivals Mankato State and St. Cloud State, shooting 66.6 percent from the field for a combined 39 points. She also added 12 rebounds, six steals and four assists to her two game total.

### Learn to swim at UNO

The UNO Campus Recreation Office has announced its Learn to Swim program for children will begin Feb. 22 at the UNO Aquatic Center from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and from noon to 12:45 p.m. Registration will be Feb. 3-21 in Room 100 of the Campus Recreation Office, located in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building.

The classes will cost \$15 for the first child and \$12.50 for each additional child. For more information, call campus recreation, 554-2539.

### Maverick wrestlers win one, lose one

The UNO Wrestling team lost to top-ranked Central Oklahoma Thursday 28-13. The Mav grapplers took on St. Cloud State Saturday at Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln High and won 31-15.

### Cartwright on verge of all-time record

UNO senior center Phil Cartwright needs only 14 rebounds to become the Mavs' all-time leader, passing Larry Villnow's mark set in 1965. Currently, Cartwright has 762 career rebounds.



# Remember the little people down there . . .

By next week Super Bowl XXVI will be in the history books.  
 It either will be a Super Bowl super flop, making us yearn for "Murder She Wrote," or it will be the game of the decade.  
 With the hypes surrounding the Super Teams'

in football history, New York Jets kicker Jim Tuerk kicked three field goals as the Colts, who entered favored by 18, fell 16-7. Joe Namath had to have been thankful for Turner's foot in "guaranteeing" victory and keeping Broadway Joe from eating Broadway Crow.

After Pittsburgh Steelers' kicker Roy Gerela missed a field goal in Super Bowl X, Dallas safety Cliff Harris teased Gerela literally to tears. Of course, Gerela had a bodyguard (middle linebacker Jack Lambert) who came along and slammed Harris to the ground before the laughter got out of hand.  
 And who can forget Buffalo's Scott

Norwood's 47-yard failure in last year's game? Many fans wondered if they would read about Norwood being found dangling from a rope.  
 Now to make my Super Bowl prediction. I don't expect a lop-sided score, but I don't think Norwood will have to worry about running out of Roloids before the two-minute warning.  
 Washington 30, Buffalo 24.

## THE RIGHT CALL BY DAREN SCHIRAT

Super Quarterbacks, All-Pro running backs and ferocious linebackers, the little people of the Super Bowl are forgotten.  
 The gridiron soldier I'm referring to is the itty, bitty, cute, little place-kicker.  
 You remember them. They have one numeral on their jerseys, hardly have much of a face mask on their helmets, and some forget to put on one of their shoes.  
 In Super Bowl III, perhaps the biggest upset

on the brink of sudden death.  
 It's too bad fans forget the kickers' triumphs and only remember the tragedies.  
 Remember the Miami Dolphins in its hey-day? Garo Yepremian, a midget kicker from Austria, tried quarterbacking after his blocked kick flew back at him in Super Bowl VII against Washington. He threw an interception to Mike Bass, who returned it for the Redskins' only score.



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# Special Report: Poverty in Omaha

At age 45, former political activist Jim Evans has returned to school as an education major. He wants to be a high school teacher.

Evans said his wife works and brings home more money than the couple once did, but they and their child are living less well. "We do not splurge at all and are barely scraping by," Evans said.

He wonders aloud how most people make it in today's difficult economy, and said he understands why some who are frustrated have abandoned traditional pluralistic American politics. He said he worries about David Duke.

Increasing "economic polarization"—especially among poor and minorities—"threatens to subvert traditional partisan politics," a national pollster said. Donald Kellermann, director of the Times Mirror poll, said unemployment and lack of economic growth are driving "intense" public alienation.

"We have not seen this level of public discontent since just before the Reagan recovery in 1982," Kellermann said. Data released by a Times Mirror poll showed David Duke, the unsuccessful candidate for Louisiana governor, had a nationwide approval rating of 20 percent. This is high for an "extremist," Kellermann said.

At the same time, however, Duke has unfavorable ratings twice as high as most other candidates. The approval ratings of George Bush were as good as other GOP incumbents who have won second-term victories, the poll found.

Is the economy creating a potentially dangerous political environment? "If we didn't say so, yes," said Kellermann.

James Johnson, a political science professor at UNO, agrees in part with Kellermann. "I don't think it's the economy alone," Johnson said. If the economy were stronger, however, people would be less likely to support a candidate like Duke, he said.

Johnson said he sees underlying societal "cleavages" as a factor in people's voting patterns. For example, he said, after overt racism was virtually eliminated during the civil rights movement of the '60s, people turned their attention to eliminating institutionalized racism in the work place through affirmative action programs. However successful the civil rights movement was, it tended to force racism "underground," Johnson said. Programs such as affirmative action only become a problem when the job pool declines.

"The cleavages become more apparent because there are underlying bread and butter reasons for it," Johnson said. "The economy becomes the catalyst that brings social problems, like racism, into focus, he said.

The economy becomes the catalyst that brings social problems, like racism, into focus, he said. He lost Duke didn't lose his bid for the governorship of Louisiana because of his racist ideas, Johnson said. He lost because the state would undergo economic hardships, such as losing tourism and jobs, with a governor like Duke. People are beginning to want a "quick fix" to the economy. That was the situation in Germany—a quick fix—which became attractive, he said.

"Hopefully, the voters are not that simplistic," Johnson said. Omaha Mayor P.J. Morgan said slowdowns in the economy are going to occur no matter what politicians do.

Morgan said people like David Duke use media coverage to take advantage of conditions. "I try to ignore it and stay on my own course," Morgan said. Morgan points to the 2.8 percent Nebraska unemployment rate and nine years of economic growth since 1982 as evidence the economy is in a natural slowdown.

See Cover, page 2



He said jobs and affordable housing are tied to the economy. "It's certainly an important issue."

In 1990, the Times Mirror poll, "The People, The Press and Politics," found:

- The "partisan poor" — making up 10 percent of the electorate — are no longer automatic Democrat voters.
- A majority of all voters associate the Republican Party with "rich and monied interests."
- Most voters subscribe to the view that "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."
- Anti-Japanese sentiments "soared" with the decline in economic expectations of most Americans.

"As feelings of alienation have increased, the public has also become more sensitive to a growing disparity between rich and poor," Kellermann said. The social inequity, he added, has led to Americans feeling more hopeless and disillusioned with the political system.

Less educated and lower income groups were more likely to be politically and personally alienated, a random sample of 3,004 adults found. The margin of error was 2 percent to 3 percent.

The survey found 47 percent of Americans often do not have enough money to make ends meet, and 54 percent said money is one of their most important concerns.

The survey found Americans hold inconsistent views: they distrust government regulation yet support liberal social welfare.

Likewise, a majority of Americans expressed distrust in "big business" but identify themselves as pro-business, the poll found.

Against this backdrop, the UNO fall semester public affairs reporting class wanted to learn more about economic stress in Omaha from its own campus to the homeless. The series of stories represent weeks of work on the part of these journalism students, Heidi Jeanne Hess, Gateway editor and the Gateway staff. We hope you enjoy it.

—Jeremy Harris Lipschultz, Assistant Professor,  
Public Affairs Reporting  
Kim Hansen, Student Project Editor

# This door always stays open

By Sue Brown

For 37 years, Omaha's Open Door Mission has helped people in need, said Pastor Del Lange, program chaplain and head of the Mission's rehabilitation program.

The Open Door Mission houses 150 to 200 people per night year-round. A wing designated for families is usually occupied by five to six families. Mobile homes are set up outside the Mission for the overflow, he said. The Mission is located at 2706 N. 21 St.

The Lydia House, 3030 N. 21 St., is designed for single women going through rehabilitation and single mothers. It usually houses between 40 and 60 women, Lange said.

"We never turn anybody away. If we had to, they could sleep in my office," he said.

The Mission does not set a limit on how long people can stay, Lange said.

"Those people are in a crisis situation and the last thing they need to hear is that they have to get out next week."

One hour of counseling a week and 10 classes are required for a person to stay in a 12-month, live-in, work study rehabilitation program. They must also learn two Bible verses a week and be at devotions at 7 a.m. each day, Lange said.

The program is set up in four separate 90-day periods. At the fourth level, a person is encouraged to get a full-time job, he said.

"The success for people who have graduated from the program is 80 percent," he said.

If people want to continue their education after completing the program, the Mission allows them to stay through college, will offer some transportation and help get grants, Lange said.

The Mission works with an annual budget of more than \$1 million, Lange said. The Mission does not receive any federal or state funding; all of the money is donated.

On any given day, the Mission serves 500 to 700 meals.

However, "Wednesday Give Away Day," allows any needy person access to donated clothing in the Mission warehouse. A person must sign in by noon and then attend a 12:30 p.m. chapel service. After a 1 p.m. lunch, a pantry ticket (worth approximately \$25 to \$30 in groceries) is given out, he said.

Children 12 and under are the fastest growing population of homeless, Lange said. "The biggest problem is a breakdown of the family structure. There's a multitude of latch-key kids and alcoholism is rampant," he said.

"Twenty years ago, missions were set up just for the bum or derelict. Today only 10 percent of the homeless is made up of bums," Lange said.

Single women are 25 percent to 30 percent of the homeless population. The reasons are usually because of drug addiction or domestic abuse, Lange said.

In addition, there have been many cutbacks on facilitation for the mentally ill in the last five or six years. Consequently, many mentally ill individuals are on the streets if they are not considered dangerous. Lange said 25 percent to 30 percent of the homeless are mentally ill.

"It's really sad. Just last week we had a woman in here who was just zonkers. She was naked and wanted anyone to have her. She'll be one of those found in the Missouri River."

Families suffering from economic hardship are the rest of the homeless population, Lange said.

The community can help through money, clothing or furniture donations, which are distributed to the needy for free. There is also a need for volunteers to do such things as helping in the kitchen or just talking to people, Lange said.

The Mission also has an "Adopt-a-Disciple Program," designed to teach those who grew up in dysfunctional homes what it's like to be with people who don't always have to fight, Lange said. Couples take a person out for a hamburger or home for a meal, he said.

"The best therapy a person can have is to help others."

## Children among the needy Project Help offers aid

By Linda Kleffy

For the second year, Omaha's schools have received more than 3,000 requests to provide clothes for needy children.

All needs are not being met, said Susan Meyer, Project Help administrator for Omaha Public Schools (OPS). Project Help provides winter clothing to school children who otherwise would have to go without.

The Omaha World-Herald Goodfellows Foundation, part of Project Help, contributed \$30,000 in 1991.

Terry Ausenbaugh, the Goodfellows Foundation secretary, said the donation increase is attributable to an increase in both the cost of the coats and in need.

The newspaper donates vouchers for purchases of coats, clothing and shoes at local K-Mart stores. The World-Herald receives copies of the receipts and pays K-Mart for the merchandise.

The Goodfellows Foundation is just one part of Project Help. Project Help is sponsored by OPS and is comprised of the Goodfellows, Operation School Bell and the Coat Pantry.

### Project Help

Project Help requires recipients to fill out applications for assistance. The applications allow Project Help to determine eligibility.

Children are served on a first come, first served basis and must be enrolled in school. Kindergartners through ninth graders qualify for assistance. Children can receive a coat every other year, but for no more than three consecutive years.

Meyer said eligibility has nothing to do with income, only whether or not there is a legitimate need. Children in foster homes also are eligible.

School nurses are usually the first to recognize a child's need. Requests from schools start at the beginning of the school year. Parents can contact Project Help directly, if needed. Meyer said she gives priority to the nurse's requests. Funds are usually depleted by Nov. 1.

"To minimize abuse of the program, new requests by parents are verified with the child's school," Meyer said.

In 1991, Project Help installed a computer system to keep track of families being served. Meyer said occasionally two parents will request a coat for the same child.



—Linda Kleffy

Brian Huggins, 5, with his mother Elmira choose a coat and a pair of gloves from the Coat Pantry at 47th and Hamilton.

### Operation School Bell

The week before Thanksgiving, two brothers were fitted for their new coats. Corey, 9, is a third-grader at Saratoga Elementary School. Cameron, 11, attends Druid Hill School.

Corey found a neon yellow, purple and teal coat. He even found a matching hat.

"How do you like this one?" Corey asked his mom, Patty. She said she thought it looked nice.

Cameron decided on a teal and purple coat. Both boys received a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt to go with their coats.

In 1990, Operation School Bell provided new clothing for more than 870 children through referrals from Project Help. The average cost for a complete outfit is \$75, said Leona Tallon, chairperson of Operation School Bell.

According to Tallon, most children received a complete outfit of a coat, hat, shirt, pair of gloves, three pairs of socks, underwear, a pair of jeans and a sweatshirt.

"Parents are grateful and polite," Tallon said. "Kids are so pleased, especially around Christmas time."

Operation School Bell, at 3910 Harney

Street, is a program funded and operated by the Assistance League of Omaha and operates from Sept. 9 to Dec. 14. Children are fitted for coats by league volunteers. Parents are asked to choose coats a size larger than what the child is currently wearing.

The Assistance League is a non-profit organization whose volunteers develop, administer and provide funds to charity projects serving specific needs in Omaha. Project Help is one of those needs.

### Coat Pantry

Just before Christmas, Brian Huggins picked out his own used coat. Brian, 5, is a kindergartner at Walnut Hill Elementary School in Omaha. Brian's mother, Elmira, heard about the OPS Coat Pantry from a friend.

The Coat Pantry is sponsored by KMTV's Warm Hearts Campaign. Coats are donated to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul. Max I. Walker drycleans the coats for free. The coats then are sent to the warehouse at 47th and Hamilton streets for distribution.

Elmira said she hopes Brian will receive a new coat one day, but also said, "I'm thankful for what I got."



—Linda Kleffy

A volunteer at Operation School Bell, 3910 Harney, organizes donated items for needy children.





"I'm not a loser because I stay on the streets. I got hopes. I got dreams. I got aspirations," J.C. said, one of Omaha's homeless.

# Homeless: a way of life

By Kim Hansen

"There will be no drinking in the house," she said firmly, standing at the front of the smoke-filled room.

The men bow their heads and giggle, nudging one another. In front of each of them sits a plateful of salmon and rice Creole.

On the pink wall above a boarded-up door hangs a placard of five rules of conduct. They are ignored as much as the woman standing below is. She repeats her admonitions once again — this time in Spanish.

"Let's say grace," she said.

The Dorothy Day House, on 20th and Burt Streets, is a haven for the homeless. Breakfast and hot lunches are served throughout the week from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

At mid-morning one day in December, more than 70 men and a few women sit at the long tables eating their Cajun substitute. A white slip of paper is handed out with the platefuls of food.

**DRINKING PROHIBITED VIOLATORS WILL BE BARRED!**

**PROHIBIDO BERER! SI BEBE. NO PUEDE ESTAR EN LA CASA!**

An elderly black man holds up the written reminder. He hands it to someone else to have.

"My name's Junior. Freight-Car Junior," he said while buttering his bread. He said he came from Chicago to Omaha by freight and intends to leave the same way some day.

He gestures to all the men sitting at his table and beyond. "These aren't the real homeless. These guys live in shelters and go from place to place. The real homeless are the ones who don't come here, except to eat. The real homeless live on the street," he said.

A gust of wind blows through the room before the door is completely shut. A tall, dark-haired man strides into the dining hall.

"J.C. J.C." comes a shout across the room. The men in the room take notice. Some smile and wave while others just continue eating.

The tall man walks over to the hafter and shakes his hand.

"There's one. He's one of the homeless I was telling you about," Junior said. "J.C. J.C.!"

The tall man, known as J.C., strides over to me and shakes my hand. "Where you been? I've been waiting since 8 o'clock this morning."

J.C. settles down on a bench outside the Day House. He appears as comfortable in the cold as he did indoors.

As the lunch-time stragglers make their way to the door, J.C. greets them. They warm up to him, all smiles, yet they doubt my presence.

Freight Car Junior opens the door and steps outside. J.C. hands him a cigarette. There is a gentlemen's agreement among beggars ... A homeless person's creed.

"If someone helps you out — you help them out," J.C. said. "You respect a person for a person."

"My father had a sixth-grade education. He bought me a dictionary and told me the greatest thing I could do was learn a new word every day. I do a crossword puzzle every day to keep my mind sharp."

"Even though we're homeless, we're people."

Jonathan Cornelius Paul Francis Rumbinous III — J.C. — was born March 21, 1946, into a large Greek Italian family.

Like some Catholic children, he was exposed to a religious education while growing up. Like most young men, he liked girls and sports.

J.C. was a senior and dating a 15-year-old named Sharon. One day, Sharon's father appeared at the Rumbinous' door and demanded J.C. marry his daughter. Sharon was pregnant and J.C. did what was expected of a Catholic son. He married her.

Basketball was J.C.'s game and he played it like a champ at Notre Dame High School in New York City. He was offered several scholarships by eastern colleges to play basketball. Shooting hoops in college, however, wasn't meant to be because of a prom night event when a friend of J.C.'s wound up in a street fight.

J.C. attempted to help his friend, but when the assailants tried to drive away, J.C. put a

baseball bat through the driver's windshield — and face.

Going to jail or joining the service wasn't considered much of a choice, but J.C. chose to enlist in the Army as restitution for the prom night occurrence.

Jail time may have been a safer choice.

There was a war being waged at the time. It was an unprecedented war in the way it was fought and the way the media was able to cover it. There was Guerilla warfare. There were jungles. It was Vietnam.

J.C. spent his 18th, 19th and 20th birthdays in combat in Vietnam. His four-year tour was coming to a close when a piece of shrapnel struck his left knee, ending his stay in Vietnam and any hope of returning to the States to play college basketball.

Back in America, J.C. enrolled at the State University of New York with a major in creative writing. College didn't suit him much, nor did his marriage to Sharon. Both pursuits failed.

The late years of the '60s are remembered as a time of free love, self expression and drugs. In 1968, J.C. was on his own and free to explore a new culture. For the next 20 years, he was addicted to heroin and cocaine.

September 18, 1988, was the day J.C. entered a rehabilitation program. A lot had happened since he began his habit. He had been married and divorced again and married again to an Omaha woman named Connie.

She was a waitress when she asked him to marry her. J.C. thought he had finally found what he'd been looking for. No more traveling around. It was time to settle down.

September 18, 1988 also brought the birth of his son, Johnathan Cornelius, and the day he left home.

"Since I got a divorce from Connie, it ain't worth living anymore," J.C. said.

Since the day he walked out of his home he has been without one. He spends his days and nights out on the streets.

Survival and finding work are the important things on the streets. If you know where a safe warm place is you can sleep there for a few nights, J.C. said.

Cigarettes and booze can be either bought, bartered or freely given. If you follow the creed, though, things should always be even, he said. Tit for tat.

J.C. sits on a bench outside the Francis House after a Sunday morning breakfast. It's a beautiful morning, considering it's early December.

"Every day is a struggle," J.C. pounds his fist on an imaginary desk. "You've got to get up every day and say 'I nailed it!' because you made it through one more day. You've got to say 'Thank you, God, for giving me one more day.'"

"Like today, I got up at 4:45 a.m. and got the morning paper and I've got some money and I'm gonna go make a bet this afternoon."

J.C. picks up a half-eaten sandwich lying on the bench and throws it into the street.

"I lost my respectability when I came home from Vietnam. I was a murderer. A killer. A baby-killer," J.C. said. "But I did it because I had to."

Homeless men pass by quickly and disappear around the corner to urinate.

"I'm not a loser because I stay on the streets. I got hopes. I got dreams. I got aspirations."

"Being on the streets can be lonely. But you make friends. You meet a woman sometimes and you have a relationship."

J.C. looks at the men standing at the corner watching and waiting.

I walk past the front of the Francis House and come upon a woman selling drugs to a man.

"Got a cigarette, man?" the man asks. J.C. digs into his coat and gives him a smoke.

"You got to be careful on the streets. It's instinct, man. You know in your gut when something's good or bad," he said, walking toward my car.

A gentleman to the end, he takes my right hand, raises it to his lips and kisses it, bidding farewell.

"Take care, J.C."

"Peace," he said.

## Social Services lends a hand

By Lisa Hamson

Denise, a 22-year-old UNO student, smiles as she watches her three-year-old son Christopher pretending to read from one of her college textbooks. The small child's big brown eyes light up with each turn of a page as if he is surprised by the long words.

"I'm glad he likes to pretend to read," Denise said. "I'm going to make sure he stays interested in them (books)."

Denise lives in a modest two-bedroom town home in central Omaha. The town home she lives in is provided by the Omaha Housing Authority's Section 8 program.

Denise receives Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) for her son, along with Section 8, while attending college. At first she was embarrassed about her situation, but an advisor reassured her it was temporary until she graduates.

"I am the first person in my family to receive state aid. After I had Christopher, my parents let me stay with them in California. When I moved out here for school, the support I received from them was minimal for our needs. I turned to Social Services to get the help I needed to make ends meet," Denise said.

"The Nebraska Department of Social Services is a state-run agency utilized by individuals to aid in the growth and development of their families during unexpected crises," said Charlene Duncan of the Department of Social Services.

Social Services is an "umbrella agency" for many state social programs which meet specific needs of people seeking help, she said.

Some of the programs available through the Nebraska Department of Social Services include:

- Aid to Dependent Children
- Social Security Income
- Omaha Housing Authority's Section 8
- Women, Infants and Children
- Title XX, a transportation service
- Aid to the Disabled and Blind
- Food stamps

"The Child Protective Services, which also falls under Social Services, assists in abuse and neglect cases, the placement of children into foster care and crimes committed by juvenile offenders," Duncan said.

All the programs are available based on the number of children and the income the parent or guardian receives, with the exception of Child Protective Services.

According to Duncan, Nebraska serves more than one million people annually, whether they need temporary or long-term assistance. Recipients are generally young, single mothers. However, a swing in the nation's economy has brought in two-parent families with borderline poverty incomes.

The ultimate goal of Social Services, is "to make them independent and self-supporting," she said, especially those individuals receiving ADC.

"We offer individuals assistance in obtaining GED's (general education diplomas), job training programs and job placement upon completion of the program," Duncan said.

"All we want to do is get people out of their situations and back into the community as a self-sufficient person so that they can go on with a decent life."



# Food pantries assist needy

By Julie K. Condon

Like many kids, Debbie Coleman's sons want a Nintendo video game system.

"I just say to them, 'You're going to have to wait. One of these days you'll get it, but you're going to have to wait,'" she said.

Coleman and her four sons live on North 36th Street, where poverty and crime are daily concerns for the 30-year-old single mother. Coleman receives welfare and food stamps, but she said finances are still tight.

"It's hard sometimes. The kids need this and they need that, and sometimes they don't realize that we don't have it," she said. "Taxes are kind of high and food's gone up in the stores. I shop at Food-4-Less. I use my coupons (food stamps), and those help a little."

When she was unable to buy food, Coleman said she turned to Project Hope for help. The pantry, located at 31st and Spaulding streets, is one of three pantries maintained by Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries. Project Hope offers food, clothing and general education diploma classes to people who have been referred to the pantry by one of a number of local social agencies.

Tracey Gennrich, former executive director of Project Hope, said people can visit the pantry up to four times a year for food. They must have a referral from a participating agency, such as United Way or Douglas County General Assistance, and they can come only once in a 30-day period.

"I would say the majority of the people we serve are families," Gennrich said.

"At the beginning of the month, it's very slow. As food stamps run out and other public assistance runs out, it increases greatly," she said. "By the end of the month, we're having huge numbers. The vast majority of the people really are in need."

In October, Project Hope provided food to 832 people. Between January and October of 1991, the number of people served averaged 717 a month, with some monthly totals reaching into the 900s. Project Hope provides a three-day supply of emergency food to those people who come to the pantry, Gennrich said.

"This is really supposed to be an emergency supply of food. We did have a situation where a family had been here four times, but the man had been mugged. He had just cashed his check, so they were out of money for food," Gennrich said. "In those kinds of extenuating circumstances, we will make an exception."

Project Hope depends on volunteers to help sort and distribute the food — the majority of which the pantry purchases from the Omaha Food Bank. Project Hope purchases food from the food bank at 14 cents per pound.

"We really work to provide a well-balanced, nutritional meal," Gennrich said. "We don't provide a lot of junk food. Once in a while, we may do things like a box of cookies — one treat. Just because you're poor doesn't mean you shouldn't have some fun things as well."

While the majority of those who benefit from the pantry are families, Project Hope also assists elderly individuals facing financial difficulty.

After bypass surgery five ago, Ray Swiener has struggled to meet monthly expenses. The 63-year-old receives disability payments from his former employer, Campbell Soup, and his full amount of Social Security.

The \$825 he receives monthly is not enough to cover living expenses and his medical bills, he said. Like Coleman, Swiener is also concerned about rising crime and violence in his neighborhood, especially crime that affects him directly.

"I'm the one that got rolled about three or four weeks ago. I was coming home. I had gone to get some money orders to pay some bills," Swiener said. "I had \$400 worth of twenties in my billfold and the money orders in another part of my jacket. They went for my billfold. I was only 10 feet from my front door."

Two people mugged Swiener around 8:30 a.m., as Swiener's wife, Josephine, witnessed the attack from inside their home. Neighbors took up a collection to replace his stolen money, but he said there have been times in the past when there was no money for food and he's had to depend on Project Hope for help.

"I never could get caught up on my hospital bills, so the only thing I could do to keep people from hounding me to death was to file bankruptcy," he said. "I didn't want to do it, but it was the only thing I could do."

Swiener said if Project Hope didn't supply him and his wife with food during hard times, they "would probably go hungry."

Roger Macky, director of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and chair of the Omaha Food Pantry Association, said many people depend on pantries throughout the year.

"Our three pantries serve more than 22,000 people a year. In the Food Pantry Association, it's over 80,000," Macky said.

Gennrich said people need to be aware that combating hunger is year-round project, not just around the holidays.

"As the school year draws to a close in the spring, the children are home for lunch. The food bank tends to run short," she said.

Coleman and Swiener both said they believe the current recession will worsen and the poor will need to rely on pantries for assistance.

# Salvation Army aids all kinds of people

By Kathleen Brown

"Caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, loving the unlovable, and befriending those who have no friends," is the creed of the Salvation Army, said Sandy Cotton, director of the Family Services Division. In Omaha, the Salvation Army is headquartered at Gene Eppley center at 3612 Cuming. The Salvation Army serves the needs of Omaha all year with programs and special services it provides during the holiday season.

One of the most widely known year-round services, Cotton said, is the Adult Rehabilitation Center located at 2501 Center. Here, individuals with treatable emotional or physical problems are housed, fed and provided with group therapy, counseling and spiritual guidance.

These individuals participate in "work therapy," which is the processing and restoration of items donated to the Salvation Army thrift stores. The repaired furniture, clothing and appliances are sold at its thrift stores.

The Salvation Army also provides services to unwed mothers at its Renaissance Center located at 3612 Cuming. Young women may receive medical care, counseling, vocational and educational assistance.

"We are seeing much younger women involved in teen pregnancies," Cotton said. "Many are too young to sign a lease. This is one example of the type of person who may be in need of the shelter we provide here at the Renaissance Center." Cotton said approximately 125 adolescents are assisted yearly.

On one particular day a woman wandered into Cotton's office requesting diapers. Although Cotton was unable to assist the woman, she did provide her with a referral. "We do what we can," Cotton said.

The center also provides services to families and individuals with financial and material help, such as clothing and housewares, as well as temporary emergency shelter for the homeless, and abused women and children.

The center also has an emergency food pantry which provides meat, milk and other staples to the needy.

While the Salvation Army evaluates a client's needs on a case-by-case basis, Cotton said it tries to distribute pantry items in three month intervals. Less than 10 percent of the clients abuse the pantry, Cotton said. The Salvation Army does check with other agencies to avoid duplication and abuse of pantry services.

The Salvation Army also supports several special services available only during certain times of the year, she said.

Such a service is the Army's "Winter Night Watch" from December through February every year. This program consists of a van which drives around dispensing food, clothing, blankets, coats and hats to the homeless. The van offers to take the homeless to a place of shelter.

In conjunction with the Metropolitan Utilities District, the Salvation Army provides an Energy Assistance program for the elderly and the disabled from January through

March. Approximately \$100,000 is expended each year to assisting roughly 1,600 people in the Omaha area, Cotton said.

Cotton told a story of a couple in their early '80s with an income of \$800 a month, of which \$200 went to the husband's chemotherapy treatment. The wheelchair bound wife cleaned the hallways in their apartment complex to receive a discount on their rent.

Cotton also had another poverty-related story to share. One bitterly cold month, a couple's daughter arrived home from the military to discover her father had frozen to death and her mother near death due to lack of heat. "This is one of our sadder stories," Cotton said.

In 1990 the Salvation Army provided services to more than 426,000 people in the Omaha area. The Salvation Army is run by people who are ordained ministers trained in the Gospel. The staff is supplemented by administrators, teachers, social workers, support staff and other professional personnel, including volunteers, she said.

Funding is received in a number of ways. Grants, state contracts, assistance from the Federal Energy Management Agency, Shared Services and the Omaha Food Bank, private donations and funding from the United Way all support the Salvation Army, Cotton said. Funds also are raised through the annual Tree of Lights and Bell Ringer program. 1991 also marked the 100th anniversary of the kettle and bell ringer fundraising program, Cotton said.

"While we cannot always meet every need, we try," Cotton said. "We listen, we care, we validate their feelings. Hopefully we lift some of the burden off their shoulders."

In addition to the year-round services provided, the Salvation Army has several services which it provides to the needy specifically during the holiday season.

According to Salvation Army figures, in 1990 it provided more than 2,800 families with Christmas dinner; 14,500 children received toys and mittens (knitted and donated by volunteers); the Community Centers provided toys, treats and gifts to more than 9,000 people; more than 6,400 shut-ins and nursing home residents received visits and gifts; 25 children received a complete set of new clothing, gifts and a holiday dinner at an event designated as the "Neediest Children's Party"; 730 senior citizens enjoyed a complete Christmas dinner and party, and 1,548 volunteers contributed more than 28,552 hours during the Christmas season.

Two of the more well-known holiday programs involve the distribution of more than 2,500 books as part of the Project Literacy campaign in conjunction with KETV. The other popular program is the Warm Coat project coordinated with KM3TV and Max I. Walker dry cleaners. The Warm Coat project, started in 1985, saw the collection of more than 10,000 coats its first year. Last year 900 coats were distributed.

"We realize that people only have so many coats they can donate, but it is important to say that the need still exceeds the supply for anyone who may be interested in donating a coat," Cotton said.

## Other local services offered ...

### Red Cross Emergency Services

The Emergency Services Division of the American Red Cross operates an emergency food pantry to supply food when other local pantries are closed.

This service of the Red Cross sees the greatest number of poverty-stricken people, said Radine McGowan, director of the division.

"These are people who have emergency needs that can't be met through their own resources," she said. "However, the programs are geared toward anyone needing help, not necessarily the disadvantaged."

"We provide food in strictly crisis situations. We provide just enough food to get by," McGowan said, adding it amounts to about a grocery sack full of staple food items.

Food items from the pantry include many canned, non-perishable items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, soup and maybe bread.

"We try to provide items that don't

require electricity to prepare or could even be prepared over a candle. Some clients may not even have a stove, not to mention electricity," she said.

"Interestingly, we don't often see a client more than once, maybe twice. People who try to abuse our services are in the minority by far," McGowan said.

Red Cross Emergency Services, the second largest recipient of United Way funding in the nation, is also funded through contributions, private donations and fund drives.

### Visiting Nurse Association

Marie Henry, 95, lives by herself in a little house in North Omaha. She suffered a stroke and has no family, but she doesn't let these hardships affect her happiness.

"At least I don't have to live on the streets. I have my home, and I have the Lord," she said.

According to the Statistical Abstract of 1989, Henry is one of 225,000 elderly Nebraskans who receive medical care in

their homes.

A nurse from the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) comes to Henry's home once a week, an aide comes twice a week to bathe her and a doctor from Creighton University's internal medicine department is available when needed.

Not all elderly Nebraskans will be able to receive the same help as Henry does, however. A referral from a physician and meeting Medicare guidelines are required for VNA help. If people qualify, then the service is provided free.

"The big problem is that Medicare does not pay for people who are not acutely ill," said Marlene Tully, vice president of VNA.

People with a chronic illness have to pay for their own medical expenses, Tully said.

"Everybody should be able to receive these basic needs," Tully said.

—Kathleen Brown and Vera M. Verrips